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## BOOK REVIEWS.

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THE LAW'S LUMBER ROOM, By FRANCIS WATT. London: John Lane, The Bodley Head; Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1895.

If one is looking for a short cut to the law as it is, such a book as this will not aid him materially. But to layman as well as lawyer in whom dwells the love of the antique, the curious, and the romantic, it will appeal strongly. The author has invaded the "Lumber Room" of obsolete laws, and has unearthed for our inspection the most curious of the old customs and statutes of an England of another age. He describes clearly, where it is possible, the origin, growth, and decay of these fantastic laws, and illustrates their operations by examples drawn from the old reports and court rolls. Especially striking and interesting, perhaps, are his chapters on "Peine Forte et Dure," "The Custom of the Manor," "The Law of the Forrest," and "Sanctuary."

*C. D. Foss, Jr.*

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WHITTAKER'S SMITH ON NEGLIGENCE. With Notes by J. A. WEBB. St. Louis: The T. H. Thomas Law Book Co. 1896.

Mr. Smith's second edition was published in England in 1884. Two years later Mr. Whittaker, of the Cincinnati Bar, presented to the profession an American edition of the book. This year brings a new edition of Mr. Whittaker's American Notes.

Mr. Smith's work is based upon the Roman law classification of the degree of care required by law in the performance of various duties: neglect of duties requiring (1) ordinary care, (2) more than ordinary care, (3) less than ordinary care. After a chapter defining negligence, the author devotes a chapter to each of these classes, which, with chapters respectively on Contributory Negligence, Presumptions, Actions for Injuries Causing Death (Lord Campbell's Act), and Damages, constitutes the work. These general divisions were minutely subdivided by Mr. Smith. The American editors have added a large number of similar subdivisions, taken from the recent development of the law. They have selected such parts of the text as are rendered most important by constantly recurring decisions, and have added under a brief note a full list of the authorities, frequently giving the facts of cases, usually the rule of law contained in them. The manner in which this has been done will render the work of great use to the busy practitioner; he will find Mr. Smith's clear exposition of the law most abundantly illustrated by the American cases. An example will suffice: After devoting several pages to defining